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August 22, 2018

The Honorable John R. Bolton  
U.S. National Security Advisor  
Executive Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Bolton:

As you and your colleagues advance diplomatic talks with North Korea, I urge you to make the return of the USS *Pueblo* a condition of any prospective agreement. I make this request on behalf of the ship's 83 crew members as well as their families and survivors.

As you may know, the USS *Pueblo* was intercepted by a North Korean patrol boat on January 23, 1968. The North Koreans assaulted the American intelligence vessel in international waters, resulting in the death of U.S. Navy sailor Duane Hodges. After their ship was captured and led to a North Korean port, the American crew members were charged with spying in North Korean waters. Following 11 months of physical and psychological torture, the Navy sailors were returned to the U.S.

The USS *Pueblo* officially remains a U.S. Navy commissioned vessel, but it is still moored in Pyongyang, serving as a North Korean museum and war trophy. While nothing can erase the beatings, disfigurement, and mental anguish suffered by these heroes, there is now an opportunity to recover our captive ship and provide closure to the surviving veterans and their families.

Bringing the USS *Pueblo* home should be part of the United States' renewed diplomatic negotiations with North Korea. Thank you for your attention and response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

John J. Faso  
Member of Congress

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